



## **SUMMARY**

### **Indiana's Rules for Educator Preparation and Accountability (REPA)**

Updated Jan. 7, 2010.

- **Requires Emphasis on Content-Knowledge.** Changes revise the licensing requirements to emphasize teachers' content knowledge.
  - **Elementary teachers** (K to 6) must earn a baccalaureate degree consisting of an education major with a content-area minor OR a content-area major with an education minor.
  - **Secondary teachers** (grades 5 to 12) must receive a **baccalaureate** degree consisting of any applicable content-area major — as well as a minor in education.
- **Opens Door to Non-Traditional Administrators.** Changes allow school boards to hire superintendents outside of the traditional education system.
  - A school's governing body may apply to the Professional Standards Board for a temporary superintendent license for a nontraditional superintendent for a period of time determined by the school's governing body.
  - If granted, these temporary superintendent licenses would only be valid within the employing school district.
- **Requires Testing of Every New Teacher Before Entering the Classroom.** Changes require all teaching candidates to pass certain tests to demonstrate competence in content-area knowledge and pedagogy (including the PRAXIS II exams).
  - PRAXIS I tests are no longer required for licensure after June 2011. Instead, teaching applicants are required to demonstrate basic skills before being admitted to schools of education.
- **Allows Current Teachers to Add Content Areas More Easily.** Changes allow teachers to add content areas to their licenses by passing a content-area exam that tests subject knowledge.
- **Changes Novice-Teacher Programs.** Changes eliminate portfolio and mentor program for new teachers. Mentor programs are a local option. Related changes:
  - Create a simplified Beginning Teacher Residency Program, in which a building-level administrator are responsible for assessing a new teacher's effectiveness and developing a plan for professional improvement.
- **Allows Current Teachers to use In-service Credits for License Renewal.** Changes make tuition-based course requirements for teachers to renew their licenses optional as verified by the building level administrator. Educators have the option to use in-service credits and professional development programs verified by a building-level administrator for renewal. This could save teachers as much as \$1,400 every five years in tuition costs.

- Only activities and courses directly related to student achievement will count toward renewal.
- **Simplifies Licensing Process for Out-of-State Teachers & Career Changers.** Changes reduce licensing barriers for out-of-state teachers and other highly knowledgeable adults looking to enter the teaching profession. Related changes:
  - **Out-of-State Candidates:** Requires these applicants to have two years of expertise in good standing to receive a proficient practitioner license. Otherwise, they will receive an initial practitioner license.
  - **Changing Professions:** A teaching candidate with a baccalaureate degree may obtain an Education minor and pass a content-knowledge test for licensure.
- **Eases Restrictions on License Suspensions/Revocations.** Changes allow IDOE to accept license surrenders for suspensions/revocations. This allows the Department to receive surrenders from license-holders who are facing criminal charges and allows the Department to provide a quicker response for license revocations.

**When and how will educators be subject to these changes?**

- New rules go into effect July 31, 2010.
- Students in schools of education graduating prior to 2013 are not affected by licensing changes.